

**December 12, 2001**  
**Congressman Ed Markey Statement**  
**Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation Briefing by Dr. Khidhir Hamza**

It has been interesting to watch the media and certain government officials begin to speculate about a second campaign against Iraq, even as the bombing in Afghanistan continues. The real target, of course, is Saddam Hussein, who has had a long-standing interest in weapons of mass destruction.

Here's some of what we know about Iraq's WMD program:

Iraq used poison gas against Iranian soldiers during the 1980s on more than ten occasions, as well as against its own Kurdish civilians, and has resisted United Nations' efforts to verify and eliminate its chemical weapons.

In July 1995, Iraq admitted that it had produced biological agents and has tested and weaponized these agents, including botulinum toxin, anthrax, and aflatoxin.

After the Gulf War, UN inspectors uncovered and dismantled a previously-undeclared network of about 40 nuclear research facilities, including three clandestine uranium enrichment programs and a laboratory-scale plutonium separation program. The absence of an inspections program today creates uncertainty about Iraqi nuclear activities.

Today's speaker is here to help us clear up some of that uncertainty.

Dr. Khidhir Hamza received a Masters degree from MIT and a Ph.D. from Florida State U. in Nuclear Physics. After teaching for three years in the United States, Dr. Hamza returned to Iraq in 1970 to work in the Atomic Energy Commission later chaired by Saddam Hussein. In 1987 he became Director of the Nuclear weapons program and worked with Saddam's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel.

He worked at several jobs in the Atomic Energy Commission, including Head of the Nuclear Fuel Division and the Theoretical Division that helped to design Iraq's uranium enrichment program.

His book, "Saddam's Bombmaker" (Scribner, November 2000), coauthored with Jeff Stein, is an account of his career in Iraq and his defection in 1995. In it, Dr. Hamza tells of his experience in the Iraqi Military Industry, the Nuclear Weapons Program, and Saddam's inner circle. He also describes how Iraq was engaged in other weapons of mass destruction programs including biological and chemical weapons.

Since 1998 Dr. Hamza has given many interviews, including the NY Times, The Washington Post, 60 Minutes II, Frontline and others. He has also written for the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Arms Control Today, and the last issue of Blueprint Magazine. Recent OpEds include LA Times (12-9-01) and the Wall Street Journal (12-10-01).

He is currently President of the Council on Middle Eastern Affairs based in New York. Please welcome Dr. Hamza.